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in the following words: "Ainsi, d'une part, un administrateur éclairé et généreux qui réclame les mesures les plus contraires à la liberté dont il est partisan; d'autre part, un gouvernement réformateur, désireux de corriger les erreurs administratives de ses prédécesseurs en matière de céréales, qui conserve sous la liberté les habitudes de la prohibition et rend impossible le commerce qu'il prétend favoriser."

HENRY E. BOURNE.

Kléber et Menou en Égypte depuis le Départ de Bonaparte, Août 1799—Septembre 1801. Documents publiés pour la Société d'Histoire Contemporaine par M. F. ROUSSEAU. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1900. Pp. lix, 455.)

THIS volume contains the correspondence of Generals Kléber and Menou as commanders of the French army in Egypt from the return of Bonaparte to France August 22, 1799, to the final capitulation. The Kléber papers extend from August 25, 1799, to June 14, 1800 (on which day Kléber was assassinated), those of Menou from June 16, 1800, to November 21, 1801. The papers comprise letters of these commanders, nearly all official, to the French government, to the English and Turkish commanders, to the civil and military authorities in Egypt, and to the French agents at the English and Turkish headquarters; as well as general administrative decrees and *ordres du jour*. In addition there are a number of letters from Menou to Kléber and to authorities in France, written during the period of Kléber's command. It is evident therefore (though it is nowhere explicitly stated) that the collection is intended to embrace only papers emanating from Kléber and Menou, and we are left to infer that it is in this sense exhaustive. The Kléber papers number 325, those of Menou 65; these are all printed *in extenso*, and in addition there is an appendix containing 41 Menou papers in briefest abstract.

We have here thus only one side (though the main one), of these two years in Egypt; we have no communications from the home government, from the English and Turks, nor from the diplomatic agents of the commanders. A peculiar feature is that 171 of the 390 documents had already been printed. It is true that some of these earlier publications are now difficult of access (as the "*Pièces relatives à l'Armée d'Orient*," published 1801); but there are few such, and fully a hundred of the 325 Kléber papers are taken from Pajol's *Kléber*, (published 1877). The source of the document is always carefully indicated, but it is annoying to find most of them without any place of writing shown. The editing otherwise seems careful; the introduction acutely discusses the characteristics of Kléber and Menou, and presents a judicious narrative on the basis of these papers and some supplementary material; the documents are accompanied by helpful notes. The publication of course cannot be presented as a full documentary presentation of the matter, and it does not seem likely to materially

modify earlier conclusions. The many points with regard to which it might be expected to do so are the negotiations between Kléber and Sir Sydney Smith for the Convention of El Arisch, later repudiated by Admiral Keith, and the controversy between Bonaparte and Kléber or their friends as to the condition in which the army and the finances were left by the former. On the first matter the important papers are not given; nor does the latter difficulty seem to be satisfactorily settled. The editor makes no effort to discuss the controversy carefully (see pp. xvi-xvii), and an examination of the papers does not leave us much better off, though on the whole they support Kléber.

As might be expected, the additions to our knowledge made by this publication are mainly as to the personalities of Kléber and Menou, and the methods of civil and military administration; we are left with vivid impressions of the men, and with fairly definite ideas as to how government was being conducted. It would be interesting to dwell on the attractive figure of Kléber; Menou decidedly loses in the contrast. There are some interesting and probably new side-lights on Bonaparte's previous conduct of affairs.

VICTOR COFFIN.

Lettres de Madame Reinhard à sa Mère, 1798-1815. Traduites de l'allemand et publiées pour la Société d'Histoire Contemporaine par la Baronne de WIMPFEN, née Reinhard. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1901. Pp. xxvii, 429.)

THIS volume of letters will immediately take a place among the most interesting publications of the Société d'Histoire Contemporaine. Written by the clever wife of a clever and responsible French diplomat, who, during the period covered by the letters (1798-1815) filled important posts at Florence, Berne, Jassy, Cassel, and in the Foreign Office at Paris, they furnish, as far as they go, a trustworthy record of the reaction of the French Revolution upon a number of smaller European governments, and teem with lively descriptions of persons and of places. The harvest of political fact, however, is not as considerable as it might have been if Madame Reinhard had not felt that she owed a certain consideration to her husband's position, and that she must not trust too deeply in a mail system which, in a period of wars and violence, was only too often operated for the benefit of one's enemies. But a reticence occasionally and voluntarily imposed does not, it will be recognized, impair the general spirit of probity and sincerity in which the letters are conceived. They were addressed to the writer's mother, before whom Madame Reinhard had no secrets, and such is their ease, uprightness, and charming, impressionistic volubility that they secure her a place among the masters of that difficult art of letter writing, in which none but women seem to arrive at excellence. These statements disclose where the real significance of this volume lies: not so much in new political facts as in personal appreciations of well-known contemporaries, and in vivacious